



United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

Chairs:

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ATIDMUN 2019

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Chair Letters:

Dear Delegates,

I will be chairing the Security Council at the ATIDMUN Conference for the fourth time. I am a 23-year old Atid Lod graduate. My first encounter with MUN was in the 9th grade as a delegate of Venezuela in Disarmament in TIMEMUN. In the 10th grade, I represented Portugal in the Security Council (Honorable Mention), in the 11th grade - Russia in the Security Council (Best Delegate) and in my final year in high school, I chaired the TIMEMUN Security Council. Since then, I have been a mentor of my school's team delegation to various conferences in Israel and abroad and chaired our conferences at our school. As you can understand, MUN has a unique place in my heart, as I believe it is truly a wonderful experience. It improves your social skills as you meet and work with new people; it boosts your confidence and public speaking ability and gives you a chance to get to know the real world issues that otherwise you might have not encountered. It empowers youth, as you (the delegates) must craft solutions to these problems and think of creative ways to make the world a better and more secure place. I also studied debating for six consecutive school years and participated in competitions both in Israel and abroad; and also enjoyed teaching it to younger students. My hobbies include playing video games, hanging out with friends, traveling, hiking and reading about technology and politics having great interest in current affairs. I really hope to make this conference an unforgettable event of heated and enchanted debate for all of you. Looking forward to mentoring and chairing the committee and of course, feel free to ask for assistance!

Yours,

Yair Kabakovitch yair8k8@gmail.com 0526410460



Dear delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Security Council committee! My name is Asaf Dar, and I will be one of your chairs for this conference. I am an Atid Lod senior currently living it up at the age of 17 in good ol' Sitria (yes, that's a real place). My first Model UN conference was TIMEMUN 2017, and since I've taken part in 9 conferences across the globe (mainly in Israel though). I am super psyched to chair this year's Security Council committee in AtidMUN 2019.

As I have already said, I currently live in Sitria (a little Moshav next to Rehovot). I spent 3 years in Canada perfecting the arts of grades 3-5, and returned to Israel to share my vast knowledge of snow and maple syrup with my friends. I major in biology, biotechnology and geology (which is awesome, no matter what you may have heard in the past). I love rock music, hiking in Israel and the rest of the world, and watching movies (particularly Star Wars). I am also a huge fan of TV shows, wasting way too much time consuming way too much content. I am a counselor in Hashomer Hatzair, ironically outside of Israel, and I am a part of the Sayarut (Hiking) organization of the SPNI.

I believe MUN to be an amazing game and simulation. The friends you make, the knowledge you acquire and the experiences you gain are unmatched by most extra-curricular activities. I hope you have the most amazing time at our conference and especially at our committee (seeing how it is the best one of them all), and perhaps learn a thing here and there about diplomatic relations, compromises and global events.

Hope to see you soon!

Sincerely yours,

Asaf Dar



Welcome to AtidMUN'19 Security Council

Welcome, delegates, to the United Nations Security Council committee.

Outside of the Crisis Committee, UNSC has the privilege of being the most unique committee in most model UN conferences. This is due to the committee having its own set of rules, and being the only committee with the ability to take affirmative action. During this conference the UNSC committee will discuss the topics of the Question of Self-Governance of the Kurdish People and the Tensions in Jammu and Kashmir. Both Asian Countries conflicts stem post- colonial partition when the main national and state players fifer in the perspectives and aims at solving the crises. Kashmir is the core issue between secular I-ndia and Muslim Pakistan, but the Kurdist-an problem is essentially Muslim and various factions of Kurdistan's surrounding- countries. Both Kashmir and the Kurd problems, if not tackled -amicably, could be flash points for a large-r escalation of conflict and may lead to destabilizing world peace-.

So, here we go. Some Kurdish organizations seek to create an independent nation state consisting of some, or all, areas with a Kurdish majority, while others campaign for greater autonomy within the existing national boundaries. If the Security Council can find a solution for this 'Kurdish Question', involving multiple factions of Kurdish population groups in various countries, it could serve as a blueprint for the solution of many other territorial conflicts around the globe and bring the world one step closer towards a peaceful coexistence of peoples.

If you've been following the news lately, you might have seen an article here and there about tensions, troops and violence in a place called Kashmir. Worry not, dear delegates, for we shall discuss this topic in great length during our committee sessions. Grossly oversimplifying, the Kashmir conflict is a territorial conflict between India and Pakistan over the territory of Jammu and Kashmir. This topic has been conveniently blowing up in global media due to rising tensions in August of this year, but this conflict has been ongoing since the 1940s. In our committee we will discuss the current situation in Kashmir, the possible solutions to the conflict and the reduction of the tensions between the 2 states.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC):



The UNSC is the primary peacekeeping body of the United Nations, which works to diffuse acts of aggression and threats to the maintenance of peace both nationally and internationally. According to the UN Charter, the UNSC serves to “investigate any dispute, or any situation which might lead to international friction or give rise to a dispute, in order to determine whether the continuance of the dispute or situation is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security”. Its powers include establishing peacekeeping operations, imposing international sanctions and authorizing military action; and it is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states; i.e., member states must agree to carry out the resolutions passed by the UNSC. If a country fails to comply with a resolution, punitive measures follow, which include the investigation of the issue, the recommendation of procedures for peaceful resolutions, calling upon member states to enforce economic sanctions, calling upon member states to sever diplomatic relations, and as a last resort, the use of military force.

Like the UN as a whole, the Security Council was created following World War II to address the failings of a previous international organization, the League of Nation, in maintaining world peace. The Security Council consists of fifteen members. The great powers that were the victors of World War II- the Soviet Union (now represented by the Russian Federation), the United Kingdom, France, Republic of China and the United States serve as the body's five permanent members can veto any substantive Security Council resolution. The other 10 members are non-permanent, and they get elected on a regional basis to serve two-year terms.

Topic A: The Question of Self-Governance for the Kurdish People

The **Kurdish question** is a term widely used in reference to the fact that Kurdish people do not have a homeland.

Background General Overview:

Definitions of Self-governance:

Self-governance is an abstract concept. In its essence, it is simple - the ability of one party (be it a state, a family or any group of people) to be autonomous and make decisions about how to operate without external involvement. The implementation of self-governance is the tricky part. In case of the Kurdish question there are many different approaches to self-governance. On one end of the spectrum, there is the solution of Kurdistan - an independent Kurdish state. On the other side, there is the solution of small Kurdish communities across the Middle East that operate somewhat autonomously but with complete dependence on a non-Kurdish regime. Between these edges, we have different models that include various Kurdish autonomous bodies, each having a different balance of authority versus the higher regime that controls it.

More essential for understanding key terms and definitions are presented in Appendix 1

Who are the Kurds?

The Kurds are an ethnic group native that occupies a region in the north Middle East. They share a culture and a language that has many different varying dialects. There are approximately 40 million Kurds living in the Mesopotamian plains and mountainous in an area called 'Kurdistan' between southeast Turkey, northwest Iran, northeast Syria and northern Iraq, making them the 4th largest ethnic group in the Middle East and the largest to not have a permanent homeland state.



The Kurdish people see themselves as the successors of the Medes empire, and over the years since the fall of the empire in 678 BC the area of Kurdistan was divided between many forces and rulers. Some of these players were even Kurdish independent principalities such as the Ayyubids, Annazid and the Rawadid. So the issue of autonomy for the Kurdish people is definitely not a new one. Since 1299, when the Ottoman Empire was established, the Kurdish people were not involved in the idea of an autonomous state, as they received various rights to preserve their culture. Once the power of the empire started to diminish, towards the end of the 19th century and during the 20th century, the Kurdish question escalated once again.

The fall of the Ottoman Empire meant that many regions suddenly had a real chance to receive self-governance and independence. Among those were areas inhabited by the Kurdish people. Despite being a very prominent ethnic group, the question of a Kurdish state did not receive much attention after World War I.



Map: Kurds and the Treaty of Sevres 1920

Several attempts to establish an independent Kurdish state took place, but all failed. The Republic of Ararat existed between 1927 and 1930 in the area of Turkey and the Kingdom of Kurdistan existed between 1920 and 1932 in the area of Iraq that was ruled by the British Mandate of Mesopotamia. Both entities failed to receive world recognition due to the Treaty of Lausanne in 1924 that fixed Turkish and British rule over these territories.

Kurds in Syria

The Kurds are the largest ethnic minority in Syria, comprising between 7% and 10% of the country's population before the war broke (around 2 million people). Mostly located in the northeastern part of Syria, Syrian Kurds have faced routine discrimination and harassment by the government, and for years wanted political autonomy. In the Syrian Civil War, during the Rojava conflict that started in July 2012, a political upheaval and military conflict took place in Northern Syria where a Kurdish-dominated coalition led by the Democratic Union Party as well as some other Kurdish, Arab, Syriac-Assyrian and Turkmen groups established a new constitution for the de facto autonomous region, while military wings and allied militias fought to maintain control of it, which led to the establishment of the Democratic Federation of Northern Syria or, informally, Syrian Kurdistan, in 2016.

Kurds in Iran

The government of Iran has always been implacably opposed to any suggestion of Kurdish separatism. Kurds are the third largest ethnic group in Iran, comprising more than 10% of the country's population (between 6 and 8 million people) and they inhabit four provinces in Iran - West Azerbaijan, Kermanshah, Kurdistan and Ilam Province. There are very strong ethno-linguistic ties, and shared culture and history between Kurds and the rest of the Iranian population. Nonetheless, the majority of Kurds in Iran are Shia Muslims and the result is that many Kurds in Iran have shown no interest in Kurdish nationalism, and some even reject the idea of autonomy, preferring direct rule from Tehran.

Despite the similarities, in 1943, the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI) began their political activities in Iran, aiming to gain partial or complete self-rule in Kurdish regions. They even established the Republic of Mahabad, a short-lived Kurdish self-governing state on December 1946. After a somewhat quiet decade, violent Kurdish riots began in 1956 with KDPI support. These continued on and off until 1996, when the KDPI armed struggle ended. In the most violent episode of the conflict more than 30,000 Kurds died due to the 1979 rebellion. In 2004, the Kurdistan Free Life Party (PJAK) emerged and began leading insurrections in Western Iran ever since.

Kurds in Turkey

The Kurds are the largest ethnic minority in Turkey and make up between 15% and 20% of the population (around 13.5 million people) that are mainly concentrated in the east and southeast Turkey. The Turkish approach towards the Kurds is a violent one. Since the establishment of the Republic of Turkey in 1923 (which in itself overhauled the Kurdish independence promised in the Treaty of Sèvres in 1920) the Turkish Kurds suffered in many ways. Over the years thousands of Kurds were harmed in various massacres, and the government even categorized Kurds as "Mountain Turks" until 1991, while words like "Kurds", "Kurdistan", or "Kurdish" were officially banned. Following the military coup of 1980, the Kurdish languages was even officially prohibited in public and private life.

The negative Turkish policy created a strong resistance among the Kurds and since the 1980s, Kurdish movements have included both political activities for basic human rights for Turkish Kurds as well as armed rebellion, demanding either a separate Kurdish state or self-autonomy for the Kurds. The Kurdish rebels are composed of many groups that work together under the Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK) but the main rebel group is the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). The PKK was established in 1978 and it's full-scale insurgency began on 15 August 1984, when it announced a

Kurdish uprising. More than 40,000 have died, mainly Kurdish civilians killed by the Turkish Armed Forces and the fighting lasted until September 1999. During the period of fighting, the PKK established connections with Kurds in Iraq which forced Turkey to carry out frequent ground incursions and air and artillery strikes in Iraqi Kurdistan.

The 21st century has yet to solve the Kurdish-Turkish conflict, as the fighting between rebel groups and the Turkish government has been going on and off for the last 19 years. After the ceasefire of 1999, the clashes resumed on June 2004 and did not stop until 2013, when the Turkish Government and the jailed PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan started talks that resulted in a ceasefire and peace talks. On 25 July 2015, the PKK again cancelled their ceasefire due to various events, including the bombing of PKK positions in Iraq. Turkish authorities have destroyed substantial parts of many Kurdish inhabited cities. Following secret negotiations, a successful ceasefire was put in place by Turkish main political party (APK) and the PKK.

Kurds in Iraq

The Kurds are the largest ethnic minority in Iraq, comprising between 15% and 20% of the country's population (around 8 million people). The majority of Kurds live in Iraqi Kurdistan, where they developed as a Kurdish subgroup when Great Britain created the state of Iraq out of the Sykes–Picot Agreement of World War I.

In 1946 the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) was founded and pushed for Kurdish autonomy. Due to their activity, in March 1970, an agreement was signed with the Iraqi government after years of fighting. However, that agreement failed and by 1974 the Second Iraqi–Kurdish War broke. In 1975, the failure of the KDP created the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) that strived to advance Kurdish autonomy in a different way. Since then the KDP and the PUK are the two major players in Iraqi Kurdistan political system, and over the years they have been foes and partners over differing philosophies, demographics, and goals. Despite the new movement, in 1980 the Iran–Iraq War devastated Iraqi Kurdistan and created a setback for Kurdish autonomy.

In 1991 there were a series of riots in northern and southern Iraq. Afterwards, Kurds fled back to the mountains to seek refuge from the Hussein regime. The US established a no fly zone initiative in Iraqi Kurdistan and even led the United Nations Security Council Resolution 688 that forbade "the repression... in Kurdish populated areas." This allowed the Kurds to succeed in pushing out the Iraqi forces from the north, which created the basis for Kurdish self-rule. Iraqi forces finally left Kurdistan in October 1991 and in 1992 the KDP and PUK established the semi-autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). Later on, in 2003, when the US invaded and ousted the Hussein regime, the northern Kurdish border with Iraqi central state was moved considerably southward, which gave Kurds more access to water and oil resources, therefore increasing priorities within the region to establish steady relations with the Kurds. The invasion and the subsequent political changes led to the ratification of a new constitution in 2005 which included reference to Kurdish autonomy in Iraqi Kurdistan. Iraqi Kurdistan built a socioeconomic infrastructure from scratch, completely independent from the centralized framework for the Baath regime and remained stable despite the region's instability in the last few years.

The Different Approaches Within the Kurdish Community Towards Self-governance:

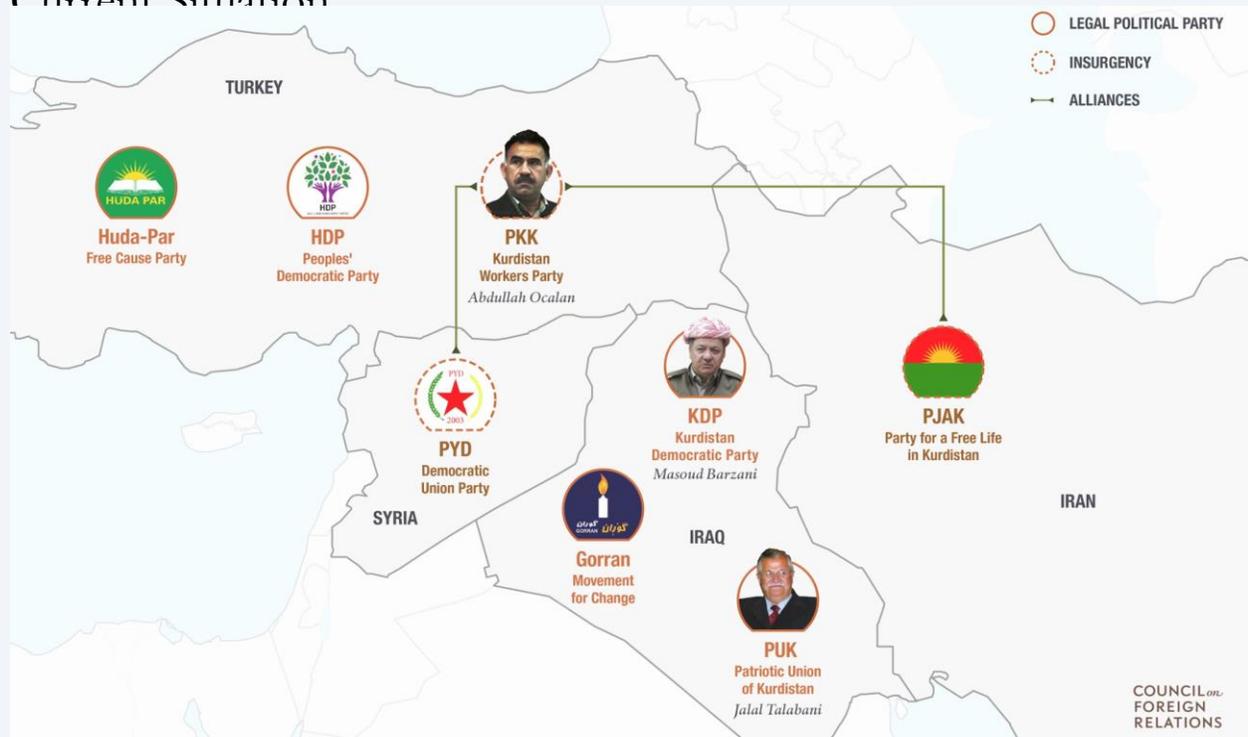
The Kurdish community is divided within itself on the right way to advance with self-governance. These differences are rooted in the fact that over the last 100 years the Kurdish people are spread over 4 different countries, each of whom has different characteristics that affect the status of the Kurds and their aspirations. In Iran, Kurds see themselves as Iranians, because of the strong historical roots Kurds and Persian have. Although there is an Iranian movement for more Kurdish autonomy, it does not want complete Independence, just increased autonomy. In Iraq the Kurdish people act differently - they do not feel Iraqi, and they want an independent state. This was well established in the referendum two years ago. But, the Iraqi government does not accept such independence, and so Kurds in Iraq try to maintain as much autonomy as they can in their Iraqi territory. In Syria, the Kurds' main goal is to preserve the autonomy they achieved in the war, that is greatly better than what they had before the civil war under the previous Assad regime, and in Turkey Kurds are still swinging between achieving more autonomy in peaceful ways (integrating in the Turkish political system) or in forceful ways. Besides these forces, the international Kurdish community is composed of Kurds that fled their origin country during one of the various armed conflicts. These are more pro-independence but have no real influence on what occurs in the Kurdistan area. In order to get closer to a solution

to this situation, countries need to understand the different voices in the Kurdish community in order to help them achieve the solution they aspire to.

<https://thekurdishproject.org/kurdistan-map/>



Current Situation



The last few months and those to come are crucial for the question of Kurdish self-governance, as in many fronts the political structure is starting to take form after years of instability.

In Iran, the PDKI states that Iranian Kurds are suffering from human rights violations in a systematic way that manifests itself in other ways than in the execution figures. According to them, the Iranian regime has a deliberate policy of keeping Iranian Kurdistan in a state of economic underdevelopment. The PDKI itself is banned by the Iranian government, which seems unwilling to allow any form of autonomy for the Kurds within its borders, and even takes active measures against Iraqi Kurdistan in order to ensure the stability within its own territory. Iran attacks Iraqi Kurdistan from time to time and has even closed the border as a response to the referendum Iraqi Kurdistan held in September 2017. It is clear what the approach of Iran is to the question of Kurdish self-governance but it is interesting to understand the state of Kurds in Iran, as they see themselves as very similar to the Iranian people. It is not clear they are the same in their pursuit of independence as Kurds in other countries.

In Syria, the Democratic Federation of Northern Syria (DFNS) has been functioning as an autonomous region from 2016. It has established a proper democratic political system, with Syrian

civil laws valid if they do not conflict with the Constitution of the DFNS. Its economy is based on blending co-operative and private enterprise as three-quarters of all property has been placed under community ownership and a third of production has been transferred to direct management of workers' councils. The DFNS civil government has been hailed in international media for human rights advancement. It is interesting to see that the region does not claim to pursue full independence but rather wants autonomy within a federal and democratic Syria.

In Turkey, the situation is less positive. Turkey does accept the DFNS as it might affect Kurdish nationals within its border; and so, Kurdish-inhabited Afrin Canton has been occupied by the Turkish Armed Forces and Turkish-backed Free Syrian Army since the Turkish military operation in Afrin in early 2018. Between 200,000 and 250,000 people were displaced due to the Turkish intervention. The US and has tried to sustain the situation and halt Turkey's aggressiveness by establishing a 'safe-zone' for the Kurds in northern Syria. But still, the situation is very fragile and we may be on the brink of another Turkish-Kurdish armed clash. The situation between Turkey and DFNS is probably the most unstable part of the Kurdish problem right now.

In Turkey itself, the ceasefire achieved in 2015 was broken again and as the fighting between rebels and the Turkish government continued. On the other hand, Kurds have been gaining political power through various local elections and even gained more parliament seats that support them via the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP). Still, it is not clear what is the fate of Kurdish question in Turkey.

In Iraq, Iraqi Kurdistan is ruled by the Kurdistan Regional Government that is made up mainly of representatives of the KDP and the PUK. In the last years, its main focus was to assist the Iraqi government and its fellow Kurds to fight ISIL, until September 2017, where it held an independence referendum for Iraqi Kurdistan with preliminary results showing approximately 93.25 percent of votes cast in favour of independence. The referendum sent the entire region downhill, as the Iraqi government rejected its result and a conflict raptured between the two governments, ending in almost 40% of Iraqi Kurdistan being occupied by Iraqi forces. In November 2017, Iraq's Supreme Federal Court ruled that no Iraqi province was allowed to secede and in response the KRG announced it would respect the ruling, stating that "this decision must become a basis for starting an inclusive national dialogue between (Kurdish authorities in) Erbil and Baghdad to resolve all disputes". Since then the KRG focused mainly on rebuilding its status and had seen a change of political figures in the

last elections that were held in 2018. It seems that even in Iraqi Kurdistan, the dream of full Kurdish independence is still far away.

The question of Kurdish self-governance is a complicated one. Kurds are in a different situation in each part of the Kurdistan region, and that difference creates different approaches and definitions for self-governance. The Kurds themselves are not synced within themselves and the Kurdish community is divided over this issue - what is the right way to advance in order to ensure peace and stability for the Kurdish people?

Questions to Consider:

- Does your country have relations with the Kurds?
- What is your country's relations to the rulers of Syria and Iran?
- Do you have a minority population?
- How would your government and population react to Kurdish independence?
- What resources can you give to best help the Kurds?
- Which countries should be brought into the discussion to try and advance the Kurdish predicament? Which and how?
- To what extent is the effective autonomy exhibited by the Kurds in both Syria and Iraq sufficient as a precursor for future independence or legal autonomy in the future?
- In what ways does the autonomy exhibited by Kurds in Iraq differ from the autonomy model the Kurds exhibit in Syria? Is one or the other more viable for potential independence?
- Is there a different solution for every part of the Kurdish people (in Syria, in Iran and in Iraq)?
- What is the most urgent matter to handle in the issue of Kurdish self-governance? Iraqi Kurdistan? Syrian Kurdistan? Turkish Kurdistan? Or maybe even Iranian Kurdistan? What roadmap can you draw to ensure this issue is settled in the long run?

Suggested Reading:

- <https://www.infoplease.com/history/world/kurdish-history-timeline>
- Iraqi Kurdistan Profile-timeline <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-15467672>
- **SC Resolutions on Kurds:**
 - [Security Council resolution 688](#)
 - [United Nations Security Council resolution 688](#)
 - [Security Council resolution 687 1991](#)
 - [resolution 678](#)
 - [Unites Nations Security Council council resolution on iraq](#)
 - [Kurdistan](#)
 - [What is the resolution 1441?](#)
 - [Kurdish conflict UNSC](#)
- **Kurds Wikipedia portal:** <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurds> and its various linked pages.
- **CIA Factbook:**
 - <https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/document/cia-rdp79-00927a004100020004-3>
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- “Time for U.S. Rethink on Turkey's Kurdish Problem - pro-Kurd Official.” *Ahval*, <https://ahvalnews-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/ahvalnews.com/us-sdf/time-us-rethink-turkeys-kurdish-problem-pro-kurd-official?amp>
- “Who Are the Kurds?” *BBC News*, BBC, 31 Oct. 2017, www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29702440. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29702440>

Appendix 1

DEFINITIONS/ KEY TERMS/ ABBREVIATIONS:

- **Separatism** The will and support of separation of a number of people from a wider mass of people, community or society by reason of “ethnicity, religion or gender”
- **Autonomy** The right of the people to self-governance which is granted through independence from external powers and influence.
- **Governorate** A governorate is an “administrative division” of a nation. Characteristically, a governorate is run by a governor founded in 1946 in Mahabad in Iranian Kurdistan. The party claims it promotes "democratic values and social justice to form a system whereby everyone in Kurdistan can live on an equal basis with great emphasis given to rights of individuals and freedom of expression.
- **PKK** The PKK is an armed movement, born out of desperation, seeking autonomy for the Kurdish people in Turkey. It was founded in 1978 by Abdullah Ocalan, and was later listed as a terrorist organisation by the USA and Turkey amongst other countries.
- **Secession** Secession refers to when a group, individual, ethnicity or nation formally departs from “alliance, federation, or association”.

Topic B: Reducing the Tensions in Kashmir

Background:

From the British Departure from the Region to the First Indo-Pakistani War

The British rule over the Indian subcontinent ended in 1947. After the British left, independent states in the Indian subcontinent were left to choose to accede to either the newly formed Union of India or the newly formed Dominion of Pakistan. Jammu and Kashmir, the largest of the independent states, were mainly populated by Muslim citizens who would not cooperate with accession to India. Hari Singh, the Hindu Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, decided to remain independent rather than joining either Pakistan or India. While remaining independent, Singh dismissed his prime minister Ram Chandra Kak who advocated for independence in the region. This was seen as a shift towards advocating accession to India.

In light of this new event, Pakistan set their mind to convince Kashmir to join Pakistan by any means necessary. While many efforts of persuasion were presented to the Maharaja, his indecision remained. Due to the indecision of the Maharaja, members of the Muslim League, a political party heavily advocating for the accession of Kashmir to Pakistan started to communicate with the Muslim population in the region, convincing them of promoting accession and even an armed revolt. In September of 1947, two large scale invasions of Kashmir by the Pashtuns took place with the help of the Muslim League and Kashmir's acting prime minister Liaquat Ali Khan. Many Hindus and Sikhs, who were caught in the early stages of violence in the western region, left their homes and told stories of the "Muslim atrocities" that they had experienced. This reaction sparked a supposed counter-attack from the Hindu and Singh population of Jammu Muslims. Many killings and acts of violence occurred against Jammu Muslims, especially in eastern districts of Kashmir which are heavily populated by Hindus and Sikhs. A vast number of Jammu Muslims were killed and an even larger number sought refuge in west Pakistan. The Maharaja himself was involved in some of the killing and displacing of Muslims in the region. Many of the Muslims who fled their homes believed that the Maharaja ordered the acts of violence and joined the uprising Poonch and helped with the formation

of the Azad Kashmir government. The Azad Kashmir government was formed on October 24, 1947 in western Kashmir and acted as an opposing government to the Maharaja.

In October of 1947, the invasion plans conducted by the Poonch were in motion. The Maharaja's troops were outnumbered and outgunned, forcing the Maharaja to request military aid from India. The Indian government told the Maharaja that they could not send troops into the region without Kashmir acceding to India. On October 26, 1947, the Maharaja signed an instrument of accession to India. The next day Indian troops were sent to Kashmir in aid of the Maharaja. The Indian forces helped regain control over the main cities of Kashmir, except for the western region. Rebel forces from the western districts of Kashmir advanced eastwards in an attempt to conquer Kashmir and hand it over to Pakistan. The Indian army, together with volunteers from the National Conference party (a political party heavily advocating for Indian accession), made an effort to combat the rebels. This resulted in the first Indo-Pakistani War.

The First Indo-Pakistani War

The Pakistan army provided the rebels with weapons and live ammunition. Pakistani officers working in Kashmir were replaced with Indian officers to face off with the rebel forces from the Kashmir Indian forces. In 1948, the Pakistan army officially entered the war. While claiming they were only defending their borders, the Pakistan army was clearly helping the rebels push deeper into Kashmir from the western front. Despite the pushback from the prime minister of Kashmir, India sought help from the United Nations Security Council to resolve the conflict. The Security Council formed the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP), which passed Resolution 47 (S/RES/47). This Resolution called for an immediate ceasefire, a creation of a Ceasefire Line which would act as a border between Indian Kashmir and Pakistani Kashmir, and for the Pakistani army to leave Kashmir and Jammu. It also called for the Indian army to reduce their forces to minimum strength in the region. After these circumstances are withheld, a plebiscite (referendum) will take place that will determine if Kashmir will be acceded to India or Pakistan. The ceasefire was put into effect only 8 months after Res. 47 was passed, as it was accepted by India but rejected by Pakistan.

The Indian government believed that it had legal possession over Kashmir and Jammu, and saw the attacks from the Pakistani army and the rebel forces from west Kashmir as hostility towards the nation

and the accession. India was certain that the plebiscite will insure their rule over Kashmir. India needed an asymmetric treatment between the two countries, seeing Pakistan as an aggressor. Pakistan urged for equality in the treatment. Eventually, no withdrawal was achieved. India insisted that Pakistan withdrawal their forces first while Pakistan didn't believe that India would withdrawal afterwards. After the failure of UNCIP, Sir Owen Dixon, a UN mediator was assigned the case of Kashmir and Jammu. Dixon conducted a plan involving splitting Kashmir and Jammu into separate parts, which will accede to both India and Pakistan. According to the Dixon plan, Kashmir will be demilitarized and a plebiscite will be held only in Kashmir valley, while the western region will accede to Pakistan according to their will and the eastern region will accede to India according to their will. India rejected the Dixon plan, seeing how it involves demilitarization of the area, contradicting India's "security intentions".

The Second Indo-Pakistani War

In 1954, after an election was held in Pakistan and a new prime minister came to power (Bogra), both sides agreed to hold a Plebiscite. Shortly after the agreement the United States offered military support to Pakistan to which Pakistan agreed. In light of the new deal between the US and Pakistan, India backed away from the plebiscite.

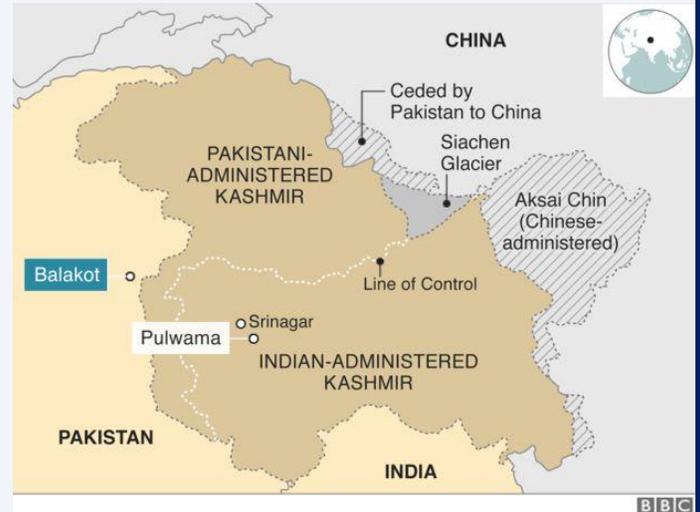
Ever since their failure to capture Kashmir and Jammu in 1947, Pakistan has supported covert operations in the region. After receiving military aid from the United States, Pakistan longed to learn guerilla warfare tactics from the US in order to take over Kashmir through unconventional methods. In 1965, an operation named "Operation Gibraltar" was implemented. The goal of the operation was to influence the Kashmir populace residing in Indian occupied Kashmir to revolt against their occupator. The operation backfired and instead of revolting, the populace turned the Pakistani insurgents in to Indian authorities. This led to the 1965 Indo-Pakistani war, which ended in a stalemate.

The Third Indo-Pakistani War

In 1971, another military confrontation occurred between India and Pakistan during the liberation of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). This led to a big loss for Pakistan while India assured its dominance over South Asia. The war ended in the signing of the Simla Agreement. The agreement contained the

usage of the Ceasefire Line implemented in 1947 as a de facto border between India and Pakistan (now renamed the Line of Control), and a future plan that strived for peace. This future plan never followed through.

In 1989, a spark of militant Muslim insurgents rose in Indian-occupied Kashmir. This was the start of the Mujahideen insurgency that exists to this day. India blames Pakistan for training the insurgents and providing them with weaponry, yet Pakistan denies the claims. Both Pakistan and the insurgents have reported that the insurgents are indigenous from Kashmir and have no interest outside of liberation and self-determination. The Mujahideen insurgency continues to destabilize the area to this day.



Current Situation:

Ongoing Conflict Between India and Pakistan

Military actions

“Indian security forces claim they are fighting to protect Kashmiris from militants and Islamic extremists, while militants claim they are fighting for Kashmiri independence and to defend Muslim Kashmiris from an abusive Indian army. In reality, both sides have committed widespread and numerous human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law (or the laws of war)”

- Human Rights Watch, 2016.

The tensions between India and Pakistan over the Kashmir territory are still high. Both nations have committed atrocities in terms of human rights abuses and attacks. During September of 2016, 19 Indian soldiers were killed during an attack by pro-Pakistani militants near the Line of Control, marking the largest death toll due to an attack in decades. Instead of taking the high road, India launched an air-strike, taking out two Pakistani soldiers. Indian forces in Indian Kashmir have abused

their power and “as retaliation to Muslim terrorists” have been killing, raping and destroying homes of Muslims who live in Indian Kashmir. Many alleged massacres carried out by Indian forces took place in the 1990s. Killings such as the Gawakadal massacre and the Handwara massacre have racked up casualties in the hundreds, and research estimates have placed the numbers of lives lost in the thousands. One of their most prominent justifications is the 2019 Pulwama attack. In February of 2019, a Muslim insurgent committed a suicide bombing, wrecking a convoy of Indian security vehicles and resulting in the deaths of 40 members of Indian security forces. India blames Pakistan for the attack, while Pakistan denies any responsibility (it is still unknown whether Pakistan had any responsibility in the attack and the state denies involvement). This caused India to launch a counter attack in the form of air-strikes, attacking cities within Pakistan. Actions such as this have not been taken since the 1971 Indo-Pakistani war. Pakistan reduced the tension between the two states by returning a downed Indian pilot whose plane was shot down during the Indian air-strikes. While insurgent attacks still take place and are getting bigger and bigger, the Indian army combats them with brutal force, sometimes targeting innocent civilians. In Pakistani Kashmir, there have been reports of discrimination of religion, along with killings and the presence of terror groups such as Al-Qaeda and Taliban.

Article 370

In August of 2019, India revoked Article 370, which up until that point let Kashmir have its own constitution and laws. India has done this in order to further integrate Indian Kashmir with India. Pakistan has reportedly condemned this action and has stated that it will “exercise all possible options” to combat it. Due to the new revoke, India has placed Indian Kashmir in a state of lockdown, restricting the freedom given to the residents of the region, along with the deployment of thousands of troops in Indian Kashmir. These intense conditions were caused as means of protection by the Indian government in fear of counterattacks from Pakistani and insurgent forces. Much controversy was sparked by India’s decision, seeing how the majority of the population in Muslim and not Hindu. Imran Khan, Pakistan’s prime minister, claims that India will cause a bloodbath in Kashmir due to the flow of Indian troops into the region. Khan refuses to meet with Narendra Modi, India’s prime minister, after the revoking of Article 370. Khan also claims that Modi does not want any international interference, while Khan strives for the global community to take action in the matter (it is as if Imran

Khan is calling you, the delegates, to help resolve this issue!). "He keeps saying it's a bilateral relation. When we try to talk to him, he says, it's a unilateral issue. So, we go around in circles" says Khan.

Views on the issue

India

India sees Jammu and Kashmir as an essential part of "secular India". While India has stated that they are willing to give autonomy to the region, they have shown that their intent is to integrate Kashmir into India. The removal of Kashmir's special status are provided in Article 370 shows that India is in the process of turning Kashmir into the new part of India. India does not accept the "two nations theory" (the argument that Hindus and Muslims are separate people and separate nations, therefore should live in separate countries), which is why even though Kashmir has a majority of Muslim people, it is still, to the Indian government, "an integral part of India". When addressing the situation, Narendra Modi (India's prime minister) refers to countless terror attacks inflicted on the people of Kashmir. Modi claims that the revoking of Article 370 was a defensive move, protecting Kashmir from the horrors of insurgent attacks such as the attack of Pulwama. The prime minister has declined international interference several times, claiming that it is a domestic matter. Modi, and the majority of the Indian populace, have grown to see Pakistan as aggressors who are trying to turn the global community against India and its rightful claim to Kashmir. Modi frequently brings up the fact that until the early 2000s, Pakistan did not recognize the terrorists in Kashmir as "terrorists", and referred to them as freedom fighters, not to mention the deep-state training camps of the so called "freedom fighters" within the borders of Pakistan. India truly believes it is doing what is right for the citizens of Kashmir while being demonized and ridiculed by Pakistan's flawed view.

Pakistan

Pakistan believes that while Kashmir is an important part of Pakistan, the Kashmiri people must decide who they want to accede to. Pakistan claims that the Maharaja who signed the Instrument of Accession was a tyrant who acted against the wishes of the Kashmiri people. According to Pakistan, the Kashmiri people no longer wish to remain under Indian control, due to the fact that the majority of the population is Muslim. Pakistan also states that India sent their troops into Kashmir before the Instrument of Accession was signed, showing signs of aggression. Imran Khan, Pakistan's prime minister, claims that India will cause a bloodbath in Kashmir due to the flow of Indian troops into the

region. Khan refuses to meet with Narendra Modi, India's prime minister, after the revoking of Article 370. Khan also claims that Modi does not want any international interference, while Khan strives for the global community to take action in the matter (it is as if Imran Khan is calling you, the delegates, to help resolve this issue!). Khan believes that the international community has not yet taken action since no country wants to muddy relations between them and the trade behemoth that is India. "He keeps saying it's a bilateral relation. When we try to talk to him, he says, it's a unilateral issue. So, we go around in circles" says Khan about negotiations with Modi. Imran Khan has told the global community that he has informed all Pakistani citizens that anyone who tries to cross the Line of Control is declared an enemy of the state, allegedly removing all ties between Pakistan and Muslim terrorists and insurgents in Kashmir. Khan has brought up the threat of nuclear war between India and Pakistan, since both possess nuclear capabilities.

Questions to Consider:

- Should the international community intervene with this issue?
- What is your country's current position on the Kashmir conflict?
- Should Kashmir be self-governed?
- Does Article 47 still stand with the shift in the issue?
- What is your country's relations with India?
- What is your country's relations with Pakistan?
- Should Article 370 be re-implemented?

Suggested Reading

- **UN Resolutions on Kashmir:**
 - http://kashmirvalley.info/un-resolutions/#.XZHW_kYzZRY
 - <https://www.britannica.com/place/Kashmir-region-Indian-subcontinent>
- **An easy to follow timeline on the events in Kashmir:**
 - <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/aug/04/heightened-security-and-anxiety-in-kashmir-amid-fears-of-unrest>

- **A telling of the reality in Kashmir after the revoking of Article 370:**
 - <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-49354178>
The perspective of Narendra Modi and Imran Khan on the current situation

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- “Viewpoint: Has India Pushed Kashmir to a Point of No Return?” BBC News, BBC, 13 Aug. 2019, www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-49316350.
- “Viewpoint: Why Modi's Kashmir Move Is Widely Supported in India.” BBC News, BBC, 15 Aug. 2019, www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-49354697
- “What Took Pakistan, India to Brink of War?” *South China Morning Post*, 5 Mar. 2019, www.scmp.com/week-asia/geopolitics/article/2188041/kashmir-conflict-explained-what-brought-pakistan-and-india-air.

- “Why Kashmir Means so Much to Both India and Pakistan.” CNN, Cable News Network, 28 Feb. 2019, www.cnn.com/2016/09/30/asia/kashmir-explainer/index.html.

Appendix 2:

A Chronology of Key Events:

1947 - End of British rule and partition of sub-continent into mainly Hindu India and Muslim-majority state of Pakistan.

1947 - The Maharaja of Kashmir signs a treaty of accession with India after a Pakistani tribal army attacks. War breaks out between India and Pakistan over the region.

1948 - India raises the issue of Kashmir in the UN Security Council, which in Resolution 47 calls for a referendum on the status of the territory. The resolution also calls on Pakistan to withdraw its troops and India to cut its military presence to a minimum. A ceasefire comes into force, but Pakistan refuses to evacuate its troops. Kashmir is for practical purposes partitioned.

1951 - Elections in the Indian-administered state of Jammu and Kashmir back accession to India. India says this makes a referendum unnecessary. The UN and Pakistan say a referendum needs to take into account the views of voters throughout the former princely state.

1953 - The pro-Indian authorities dismiss and arrest Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah, leader of the governing National Conference, after he takes a pro-referendum stance and delays formal accession to India. A new Jammu and Kashmir government ratifies accession to India.

1957 - The constitution of Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir defines it as part of India.

1950s - China gradually occupies eastern Kashmir (Aksai Chin).

Indian war with China

1962 - China defeats India in a short war for control of Aksai Chin.

1963 - Pakistan cedes the Trans-Karakoram Tract of Kashmir to China.

1965 - A brief war between Indian and Pakistan over Kashmir ends in a ceasefire and a return to the previous positions.

1971-72 - Another Indo-Pakistani war ends in defeat for Pakistan and leads to the 1972 Simla Agreement. This turns the Kashmir ceasefire line into the Line of Control, pledges both sides to settle their differences through negotiations, and calls for a final settlement of the Kashmir dispute. The Agreement forms the basis of Pakistani-Indian relations thereafter.

Simla Agreement

Indian leader Indira Gandhi, left, and Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto shake hands after agreeing to resolve disputes through talks

1974 - The Opposition Plebiscite Front in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir drops demand for a referendum in return for extensive autonomy in an agreement with the Indian government. Sheikh Abdullah becomes chief minister, and his political dynasty continues to dominate the National Conference and state after his death in 1982.

1984 - The Indian Army seizes control of the Siachen Glacier, not demarcated by the Line of Control. Pakistan makes frequent attempts to capture the area in the following decades.

Start of Insurgency

1987 - Disputed state elections in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir give impetus to a pro-independence insurgency centred around the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF). India accuses Pakistan of fomenting the insurgency by despatching fighters across the Line of Control, which Pakistan denies.

1990 - The insurgency escalates after the Indian Army kills about 100 demonstrators at Gawakadal Bridge. Attacks and threats lead to the flight of almost all Hindus from the Kashmir area. India imposes Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in Jammu and Kashmir.

1990s - The insurgency continues, with Kashmiri militants training in Pakistan and India deploying hundreds of thousands of troops in Jammu and Kashmir. Violence against civilians by both sides is widespread.

1999 - India and Pakistan go to war again after militants cross from Pakistani-administered Kashmir into the Indian-administered Kargil district. India repulses the attack, accuses Pakistan of being behind it, and breaks off relations.

2001-2004 - Moves to boost relations between the two countries are punctuated by continuing violence, notably an attack on the parliament of Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir in Srinagar in 2001.

2010 - Major protests erupt in the Kashmir Valley of Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir over the summer after a demonstrator is killed by the Indian army. The protests stop in September after the government announce measures to ease tension.

2011 August - Chief Minister Omar Abdullah announces an amnesty for the 1,200 young men who threw stones at security forces during the anti-government protests in the Kashmir Valley the previous year.

2011 September - Indian forces kill three Pakistani soldiers in firing across the Line of Control. India accuses Pakistan of opening fire first.

2013 February - Kashmiri Jaish-e-Mohammed member Mohammad Afzal Guru hanged over role in 2001 Indian parliament terror attack, prompting protests in which two young men are killed.

2013 September - Prime ministers of India and Pakistan meet and agree to try reduce the number of violent incidents at their disputed border in Kashmir.

2014 August - India cancels talks with Pakistan after accusing it of interfering in India's internal affairs. The decision comes after Pakistan's High Commissioner in Delhi consulted Kashmiri separatist leaders in advance of the talks.

During a visit to the disputed border state of Jammu and Kashmir, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi accuses Pakistan of waging a proxy war against India in Kashmir.

2014 October - Pakistan and India exchange strongly-worded warnings, after a flare-up of violence across their common border leaves at least 18 people dead.

BJP joins government

2015 March - India's ruling BJP party is sworn into government in Indian-administered Kashmir for first time in coalition with local People's Democratic Party

2015 September - Muslim separatist leaders in Indian-administered Kashmir close shops, businesses and government departments in protest at the enforcement of a colonial-era ban on eating beef.

2015 November - One person dies in violent protests following a visit to Indian-administered Kashmir by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

2016 April - Mehbooba Mufti, the leader of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), becomes the first female chief minister of Indian-administered Kashmir following the death of her father and party founder Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

Curfew

2016 July - Authorities impose an indefinite curfew in most parts of Indian-administered Kashmir after the killing of popular militant by security forces of Burhan Wani, a popular militant and top commander of the Hizbul Mujahideen group, sparks violent protests.

2016 August - A curfew in most parts of Indian-administered Kashmir is lifted but schools, shops and most banks remain shut and mobile and internet services remain suspended. At least 68 civilians and two security officials died and more than 9,000 people injured in over 50 days of violence according to official tallies.

2016 September - India and Pakistan exchange a war of words after 18 Indian soldiers are killed in a raid by gunmen on an army base in Indian-administered Kashmir.

2016 September - India says it has carried out "surgical strikes" against suspected militants along the de-facto border with Pakistan in Kashmir but Pakistan rejects the claims.

2016 October - The Indian army shoots dead three suspected militants as they try to enter an army camp in northern Kashmir.

2016 November - Human Rights Watch appeals for an end to the burning of schools in Indian-administered Kashmir after the total set alight since a wave of pro-separatist unrest began in July reaches 25.

2016 November - Thousands of villagers in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir are evacuated after violence escalates following the killing of seven Pakistani soldiers in an exchange of fire between India and Pakistan along the Line of Control.

2017 May - Thousands defy a curfew across Indian-administered Kashmir to attend the funeral of top rebel commander Sabzar Ahmad Bhat.

2017 July - Violent clashes take place in Indian-administered Kashmir on the anniversary of the death of militant commander Burhan Wani.

2017 July - Militants attack Hindu pilgrims, killing at least seven and injuring 16, in the worst such attack since 2000.

2019 August - Indian government strips Jammu and Kashmir state of the special status that gave it significant autonomy.

2019 September -India's Foreign Minister S Jaishankar, says **India expected to have "physical jurisdiction" over Pakistan-administered Kashmir** one day.